United Nations A/ES-10/344–S/2006/489

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
7 July 2006

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Identical letters dated 6 July 2006 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I regret to inform you that Israel, the occupying Power, has further escalated its military aggression against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, causing extensive loss of human life and vast destruction of property, in grave breach of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilians Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949. At least 21 Palestinians, including children, have been brutally killed by the military forces of the occupying Power and more than 60 other Palestinians, including at least 15 children and 10 members of the same family, have been seriously wounded in attacks launched today in the Gaza Strip.

In the early morning hours of the day, the Israeli occupying forces moved several miles into the northern Gaza Strip, seizing large areas once occupied by Jewish settlements, reportedly for the establishment of a so-called buffer zone in the north, and also seizing positions in and around the towns of Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun. From these areas, the occupying forces continued to carry out an air and ground assault against the civilian population and infrastructure in the Gaza Strip. That assault began last week and has not ceased since my last letter to you, with air strikes from warplanes and helicopter gunships and artillery fire from tanks positioned throughout the area, including between Palestinian homes in densely populated areas. This violent and lethal military campaign has caused widespread terror and trauma among the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza and has caused dozens of families, particularly in the Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun areas, to flee their homes in fear for their lives.

The attacks being carried out today by the Israeli occupying forces come on the heels of the statements made in recent days by Israeli officials showing their intent to widen and deepen the military campaign in the Gaza Strip, including statements by the Israeli Prime Minister, who has repeatedly warned that the Palestinian people and their leadership will face "far-reaching consequences",

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Indeed, these bloody attacks were preceded in recent days by a barrage of air strikes and tank fire at several targets in the Gaza Strip, including the building housing the Palestinian Ministry of Interior and a school in Gaza City, all aimed at causing deliberate destruction to Palestinian institutions and property and further fear and panic among the population.

These attacks, which have resulted in the killing of civilians and the endangerment of the lives of thousands of other civilians, including children and women, and which have caused extensive destruction of property, constitute reprisals by the occupying Power against the Palestinian civilian population and the collective punishment of the entire population, both of which are strictly prohibited by the relevant provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Regardless of the pretexts given, it remains without a doubt that flagrant violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law as well as extensive war crimes are being blatantly committed by Israel, the occupying Power, throughout the course of this ongoing military aggression against the defenseless Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip. Moreover, this aggressive military and terror campaign has seriously impacted the already-dire humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and there are widespread fears that the humanitarian situation of the Palestinian people under Israel's siege could rapidly deteriorate to disastrous proportions if the campaign is not ended.

The international community cannot continue to stand idly by while the defenseless Palestinian civilian population under Israeli occupation continues to be subjected to this incessant barrage of military assaults and to grave humanitarian conditions and increased suffering and hardships. In light of the deteriorating situation resulting from Israel's military escalation, we are compelled to reiterate that it is incumbent upon the international community, especially the Security Council, to undertake the necessary actions to address this critical situation in order to avert its further deterioration, to save the lives of innocent and defenseless civilians and to save the two sides, as well as the region as a whole, from an irrevocable cycle of violence, instability and insecurity. The bloodshed and death caused today by the occupying Power in northern Gaza must serve as an alarm for the international community revealing what the future holds should this Israeli military aggression against the Palestinian people continue.

Accordingly, we once again reiterate that the international community should speedily condemn Israel's military aggression and illegal practices against the Palestinian people and their leadership and demand that Israel abide by all of its obligations under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention. Efforts should be undertaken to compel the occupying Power to immediately cease its aggression in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including, inter alia, the immediate cessation of military attacks against the Palestinian civilian population, the cessation of destruction, the withdrawal of its forces to outside the Gaza Strip and the release of all of the Palestinian officials it has detained. Diplomacy is the only means by which this grave crisis can be resolved.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 251 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 3 July 2006 (A/ES-10/343-S/2006/479), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian

people since September 2000. In this regard, I wish to inform you that it is our intention to forward to you the list of Palestinian martyrs killed in recent days by the Israeli occupying forces as soon as all the dead have been identified. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as an official document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations S/2006/490

Security Council

Distr.: General
7 July 2006

Original: English

Letter dated 5 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a cable message dated 4 July 2006 from Lam Akol Ajawin, Minister for Foreign Affairs, to the President of the Security Council concerning the aggressions by the so called National Redemption Front (see annex), NRF, carried out against the town of Hamrat al-Sheikh in North Kordofan State, in an attempt to impede the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement.

I would highly appreciate if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omar B. **Manis**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

06-42223 (E) 100706 100706

Annex to the letter dated 5 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

At a time when the Government of National Unity and its partners from the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) are intent on implementing the Darfur Peace Agreement, we regret to inform you of a treacherous act of aggression perpetrated with the aim of wrecking the Darfur Peace Agreement in its early stages and extinguishing the glimmer of hope for the restoration of peace and stability in the Darfur region. This act constitutes a blatant challenge to the will for peace and to the will of the international community, in particular the Security Council. It is hardly surprising that such an act of aggression should have been perpetrated at this time by a group that openly refused to sign the Agreement and publicly declared its resolve to torpedo it.

On 3 June, a group calling itself the National Redemption Front (NRF) carried out a full military attack on the town of Hamrat al-Sheikh, located in Northern Kordafan. Targeted at the town's public amenities, the attack caused loss of life and property, in addition to which there was widespread looting of both public and private property.

It should be noted that the NRF, which was formed on 30 June 2006 in the Eritrean capital, Asmara, is an alliance composed of groups that refused to sign the Darfur Peace Agreement. Its founding declaration was signed by Mr. Khalil Ibrahim, Chairman of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim Diraig and Mr. Sharif Harir for the Sudanese Federal Democratic Alliance (SFDA), and Mr. Khamis Abdalla Abakr, SLM dissident.

The group responsible for the attack unhesitatingly declared that it would be pursuing its acts of sabotage in order to undermine the Peace Agreement. Moreover, as indicated in the communiqué annexed hereto, it affirmed that, as far as it was concerned, the Darfur Peace Agreement was simply a lie.

In bringing this regrettable incident to your attention, it is our assertion that the group would never have dared to take such action unless it had been fully confident that it would not be held to account. We therefore emphasize that the credibility of the Security Council is now being directly tested, the question being whether it is able to deter saboteurs and put a stop to those who have set about destroying the Darfur Peace Agreement.

This treacherous aggression constitutes an immediate threat to the Peace Agreement, takes the war beyond Darfur and is a flagrant violation of the cease-fire agreements, as well as a blatant defiance of all Security Council resolutions on Darfur, in particular resolution 1591 (2005).

The Government of the Sudan calls on the Security Council to shoulder its full responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations for the purpose of protecting the Darfur Peace Agreement and to take decisive and comprehensive measures against this treacherous group as a deterrent to anyone planning to destroy the Agreement.

(Signed) Lam Akol **Ajawin**
Minister for Foreign Affairs

President of the Security Council
United Nations
New York

Enclosure: Text of the communiqué issued by the group which carried out the attack

Military communiqué No. 1/Sudanese National Redemption Front

Today, 3 July 2006, the forces of the National Redemption Front (NRF) seized the strategic town of Hamrat al-Sheikh, which is situated 200 kilometres north-west of the capital, Khartoum, in the Kordofan region. Our forces succeeded in destroying two brigades of government forces deployed as an advance force to protect the capital, Khartoum. The NRF forces also eliminated the security and police forces stationed in the region, in addition to which they seized all ammunition, weapons and equipped military vehicles belonging to the government forces. Our forces also captured a large number of the defeated forces. The NRF forces are heading towards the capital, Khartoum.

The NRF offers this victory in the service of all the marginalized and oppressed people of Darfur and refutes the lie that peace and stability have been restored to the country. The NRF forces affirm that the struggle will continue until the fall of the genocidal regime in Khartoum.

"The unjust will soon know how terrible their end will be."

Commander Abdullah Bandah Abakr
Commander Adam Bakhit

Liberated territories – Hamrat al-Sheikh

3 July 2006

United Nations S/2006/491

Security Council

Distr.: General
7 July 2006

Original: English

Letter dated 5 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour, in my capacity as Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries in New York, to transmit to you, in your capacity as President of the Security Council, a copy of the statement of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries in New York concerning the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, dated 6 July 2006 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council and circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Hamidon** Ali
Permanent Representative of Malaysia
Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the
Non-Aligned Movement in New York

06-42217 (E) 100706

Annex to the letter dated 5 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement in New York concerning the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

The Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in New York met at the Ambassadorial level on 6 July 2006 to consider the deteriorating situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as a result of the Israeli military operations.

The NAM Coordinating Bureau *reaffirmed* the continued validity of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 446 (1979), 1322 (2000), 1397 (2002), 1402 (2002), 1403 (2002), 1435 (2002), 1515 (2003) and 1544 (2004).

The NAM Coordinating Bureau *further reaffirmed* the applicable rules and principles of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949.

The NAM Coordinating Bureau *expressed* its grave concern at the continued deterioration of the situation on the ground in the Palestinian Territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including East Jerusalem, during recent weeks, particularly as a result of the excessive and indiscriminate use of force by Israel, the occupying Power, which has caused extensive loss of civilian Palestinian life and injuries, including among children.

The NAM Coordinating Bureau *condemned* the large scale military assault being carried out by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Gaza Strip, which has caused vast destruction of Palestinian property and civilian infrastructure, and *condemned also* the arrest and detention of democratically elected Palestinian officials.

The NAM Coordinating Bureau *requests* the Security Council to act promptly in order to:

1. *Demand* that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately cease its aggression against the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, immediately withdraw its forces to positions outside the Gaza Strip and release all of the Palestinian officials it has detained;

2. *Acknowledge with appreciation* all efforts aimed at finding a diplomatic solution for the issue of the release of prisoners, including the Israeli soldier;

3. *Call upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to scrupulously abide by its obligations and responsibilities under the Geneva Convention relative to the protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War 12 August 1949;

4. *Emphasize* the need to preserve the institutions of the Palestinian National Authority and Palestinian infrastructure and properties;

5. *Express* grave concern about the dire humanitarian situation of the Palestinian people and call for the provision of emergency assistance to them;

6. *Condemns* the Israeli violation of Syrian airspace, which constitutes a threat to regional stability and international peace and security.

In that regard, the NAM Coordinating Bureau *further called upon* the international community, including the Quartet, to take immediate steps, including confidence building measures between the parties, with the objective of resuming peace negotiations and restarting the peace process, *bearing in mind* the recent agreement reached among the Palestinian parties for national reconciliation, which facilitates the path towards the resumption of negotiations and the peace process.

The NAM Coordinating Bureau will remain seized of this important issue and will meet again to evaluate the developments in this regard.

New York, 6 July 2006

United Nations S/2006/492

Security Council

Distr.: General
7 July 2006

Original: English

Letter dated 5 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as Chairman of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) New York Committee, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 12 October 2004 that Alounkèo Kittikhoun, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic as Chairman of the ASEAN New York Committee in 200[illegible] wrote to Emyr Jones Parry, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as President of the Security Council for the month of October 2004, regarding the endorsement by ASEAN Foreign Ministers during the informal meeting in New York on 28 September 2004 of the candidature of Surakiart Sathirathai, then-Foreign Minister of Thailand, for the post of United Nations Secretary-General for the term of 2007-2011.

At the tenth ASEAN summit held in Vientiane in December 2004, the leaders of the 10 member countries of ASEAN (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam) reaffirmed the candidature of Mr. Sathirathai, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand for the post of Secretary-General. More recently, in April 2006, during the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' retreat in Ubud, Indonesia, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers reiterated their support for and endorsement of the ASEAN candidate for the aforesaid post.

In my capacity as Chairman of the ASEAN New York Committee, I therefore have the honour to nominate officially once again Mr. Sathirathai as the ASEAN candidate for the post of the Secretary-General. I am enclosing herewith the curriculum vitae of Mr. Sathirathai and would appreciate it very much if the present letter and its annex could be circulated to the permanent and non-permanent members of the Security Council for their information and valuable support and as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Hamidon** Ali
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Chairman of the ASEAN New York Committee

06-42245 (E) 170706

Annex to the letter dated 5 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Biography of Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai

Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand

DR. SURAKIART SATRIRATHAI is Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, where he oversees foreign affairs, education, and culture. The Royal Thai Government has nominated Dr. Surakiart as Thailand's candidate for United Nations Secretary General when H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan completes his term at the end of 2006. The Leaders of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN-comprising Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam) have also endorsed Dr. Surakiart's candidature.

An expert in international law, finance, and economic development, Dr. Surakiart has over twenty years of experience in academia, government, and business, including terms as Foreign Minister, Finance Minister, and policy advisor to the Prime Minister. Dr. Surakiart also has significant private sector experience. He has been Chairman of a Thai commercial bank and head of the Thai national petroleum enterprise, as well as founding partner of a leading commercial law firm.

Dr. Surakiart has a record of successful management reform in difficult circumstances, having spearheaded the reform and privatization of major Thai enterprises, reformed the operations of the Thai Foreign Ministry and having instituted major curricular changes at the Faculty of Law at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. He has deep experience in international negotiation, both diplomatic and commercial, and a record of strengthening multilateral cooperation across Asia.

▶ Personal Background and Education:

Dr. Surakiart was born in 1958 in Bangkok, Thailand. His father was a well-respected official in the Thai Ministry of Finance and was sent to restructure a commercial bank in the past, and his mother was a renowned Professor in French literature. Both his parents were French-educated. He grew up in Bangkok, where from an early age he took an interest in issues related to democracy. Like many young Thais, Dr. Surakiart spent a period in a Buddhist monastery, and his Buddhist upbringing remains the touchstone of his personal philosophy and ethic.

Dr. Surakiart completed a degree with 1st Class - Gold Medal in Law from Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, then continued his studies of law and international economics in the United States, where he obtained two masters degrees: a Masters in Law (LL.M.) from Harvard with a thesis on human rights and another in law and diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University (M.A.L.D.). He was the first Thai to earn a doctorate in law (S.J.D.) from Harvard University.

Dr. Surakiart's doctoral thesis, "An Understanding of the Relationship Among International Legal Discourse About Development, Third World Countries, and International Peace," (1985) explored the global trade law regime from the perspective of the third world. Two years later, he co-edited a book, "Third World Attitudes Toward International Law: An Introduction," with Professor Frederick Snyder which was published widely, and has ever since been an active participant in academic debate.

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▶ Academic Career:

Upon returning to Thailand, Dr. Surakiart began his academic career as a lecturer at the Faculty of Law at Chulalongkorn University, where he taught on GATT (later WTO), the IMF, the World Bank and foreign investment, and published in the field of international economic law. His work won him appointments as the inaugural Director of the Law and Development Research Centre, Vice-Dean for Foreign Relations, and subsequently elected as Dean of the Faculty between 1991-1995. Dr. Surakiart pushed through major curricular reforms, founding Thailand's first-ever interdisciplinary program on law and development. He then found practical application for the growing consensus on law and development when asked to introduce law reform into the Fifth National Economic and Social Development Plan. He substantially broadened the Faculty's international programs, bringing numerous professors from abroad to collaborate with Thai researchers and students.

Like many leading public universities of the developing world, the Chulalongkorn law faculty then lacked the resources routinely available in the first world. Dr. Surakiart learned quickly how to work through and around these constraints - telephoning abroad from a local noodle shop, copying forms and papers on his own - to build programs and establish partnerships with colleagues at many foreign universities.

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▶ Early Political Experience

Dr. Surakiart has accepted numerous political appointments over the past twenty years, lending his financial and diplomatic expertise to prime ministers of various parties. His first appointment came under Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda in 1986, when Boonchu Rojanasatien, then the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the lower house of Parliament, asked him to serve as Advisor and Head of the Professional Staff Office of the Committee.

He then served as Policy Advisor to Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan from 1988 to 1991, assisting in trade negotiations with the United States on intellectual property issues. Recognizing that ongoing hostilities in Cambodia were threatening security and economic stability along the Thai border, PM Chatichai asked Dr. Surakiart to serve in his team to implement the Prime Minister's vision of "turning a battlefield into a market place". At a time when his government was officially associated with one faction in Cambodia, Dr. Surakiart opened secret negotiations with all factions, working in close cooperation with the United States and other parties to broker meetings that

ultimately brought the civil war to an end, restored peace, stability and eventually brought about a UN supervised election.

▶ Financial Experience

Dr. Surakiart become Thailand's youngest Finance Minister under Prime Minister Banharn Silpa-archa, a position he held from July of 1995 to May of 1996. Inheriting a national economy beset by the structural challenges that ultimately exposed it to the Thai financial crisis, Dr. Surakiart designed and implemented reforms that, while deeply unpopular, moved the economy in the right direction and today have become an essential part of Thailand's economic policy.

When he took office as Finance Minister, the Thai current account deficit was at 6 %, inflation and interest rates were very high, and the long-time peg of the Baht to the American dollar had sustained a bubble of overseas borrowing, particularly in the real estate sector. At the time, the Bank of Thailand (BOT) had no way of measuring or discouraging short-term capital inflows, and the Bank's loan classification procedures were out of line with international standards, allowing many Thai banks to hide non-performing loans.

Recognizing the danger and looming instability, Dr. Surakiart immediately took strong steps to reduce risky investments, none of which were popular with the financial sector. He worked with the BOT to urge commercial banks to reign in loans to speculative sectors, and to discourage short-term capital flows by introducing various stringent policies such as increasing the restrictions upon non-resident Baht accounts, and discouraging offshore borrowing. He also set up a balanced budget. Although these reforms came too late to stave off the financial crisis which struck under his successor, they nevertheless form the backbone of Thailand's present economic policy.

As Finance Minister, Dr. Surakiart developed Thailand's first Fiscal and Financial Master Plan for Social Development, which called for decentralization of fiscal authority and more micro-credit opportunities. The Plan set health-promotion goals which ultimately led to the establishment of the Thai Health Promotion Foundation, a body funded via a "sin tax" on alcohol and tobacco and dedicated to promoting the health and well-being of all Thais. Dr. Surakiart also gained international recognition for his efforts to strengthen Asian cooperation through the ASEAN Free Trade Area Council, as well as in the framework of the IMF and the World Bank, in particular through his proposals for the establishment of ASEAN and ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Finance Ministers' Meetings.

After Prime Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyuth took office in 1996, he invited Dr. Surakiart to serve as Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Council on Economic and Foreign Affairs. During a year in this position, Dr. Surakiart proposed a look-west policy, thus strengthening economic ties between Thailand and India, promoted Thailand as an investment destination, and coordinated with Japan on infrastructure development to make northeastern Thailand a transportation gateway to Indochina. Building on these experiences, Dr. Surakiart ultimately led the effort to redesign Thailand's

financial architecture as President of the Institute of Social and Economic Policy (ISEP) from 1997 to 2001. Heading that organization, he organized numerous public seminars to build consensus around the need for deep legal reforms in the areas of money laundering, bankruptcy, privatization, and other issues.

▶ Business Experience

After his success pushing through needed reforms as Finance Ministers, various major corporations asked for Dr. Surakiart's assistance in overhauling their operations. After the crisis, the Bank of Thailand faced international pressure to eliminate its past bad practices. The Governor of the Bank of Thailand turned to Dr. Surakiart to restructure the management of the Laem Thong Bank ("LTB" now part of UOB Radanasin Bank). He accomplished the task in a matter of months, forcing all but one member of the board to retire, replacing them with financial professionals, and instituting an early retirement program that led to the replacement of nearly twenty top managers, in the process cutting the bank's costs by 20%.

The Thai government again sought Dr. Surakiart's assistance when it needed to raise capital for the Exploration and Production subsidiary of the Petroleum Authority of Thailand ("PTTEP" - a public listed company). Dr. Surakiart served as Chairman of the Board, where he negotiated with underwriters over terms of an initial public offering. The IPO sold out of shares, a rare success story in Thailand at the time, owing to the very high interest rates and general economic malaise. He also gained experience in complex international negotiations over oil exploration and among foreign investors in the PTTEP.

Soon thereafter, Dr. Surakiart became Chairman of the Executive Board of the Thai Oil Company, another subsidiary of the Petroleum Authority of Thailand, which had fallen into bankruptcy. At Thai Oil, he resolved conflicts among shareholders and restructured over U.S. $2B in debt with over 130 creditors, making the company the first to restructure under Thailand's recently-reformed Bankruptcy Act. During that process, Dr. Surakiart closed a 20-story office in Bangkok and moved the company's employees to the plant and to another building owned by an affiliate, a move which was very unpopular among the company's managerial employees, but which saved a great deal of money. Dr. Surakiart accomplished all this without significantly affecting workers' benefits. Following these achievements, in 1999 Dr. Surakiart was appointed Chairman of the Executive Board of the PTT, where he planned the privatization of the PTT's subsidiaries.

Throughout this period, Dr. Surakiart also maintained a private law practice at the Siam Premier International Law Office, a firm he founded in 1990 and associated with the largest Australian law firm Allens Arthur Robinson and which is today one of the largest law firms in Bangkok with extensive expertise in various aspects of commercial and financial law. He stepped down from the Firm as constitutionally required when he became the Thai Foreign Minister in 2001.

▶ Service As Foreign Minister

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra appointed Dr. Surakiart as Minister of Foreign Affairs in March 2001, a moment when the international community, stung by the Asian financial crisis, had relatively little confidence in Thailand. As Foreign Minister, Dr. Surakiart reoriented Thai foreign policy towards intra-Asian cooperation, vigorously promoting a "prosper thy neighbor" policy of regional economic development. In the process, Dr. Surakiart changed the modalities of intra-Asian diplomacy by building cooperative networks among an extremely diverse set of nations called Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD). He also played an innovative role in health and welfare issues such as HIV/AIDS and landmines, and was involved in several sensitive peace and collective security negotiations in the region.

▶ Development

Through his tenure as Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Surakiart reinforced Thailand's ties to traditional allies and neighbors through conferences and initiatives by ASEAN and other regional formations, and increasing contact and trade among Thailand, Laos and Cambodia in particular. Where necessary and appropriate, Dr. Surakiart built new partnerships for specific purposes.

For example, the success of the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) has been largely due to Dr. Surakiart's speed in moving the cooperation process forward. Within eight months of its initiation in April of 2003, following extensive diplomatic planning, top leaders of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand endorsed nearly fifty common projects and over two hundred bilateral development projects to be implemented over the subsequent decade. In one such project, for example, Laos, Thailand and Cambodia have implemented a contract arrangement (contract farming) whereby Thai businesses identify various necessary crops which Laotian and Cambodian farmers then produce for the Thai market.

Early in his term, Dr. Surakiart recognized that collaboration with China and India was essential for future large-scale development projects in Southeast Asia, and that Thailand was well-situated culturally, politically, and geographically to broker such cooperation. Thus, he established close ties with Chinese and Indian leaders early in his tenure, building a comfort level that made collaboration over mutually beneficial projects much easier.

Working closely with Prime Minister Thaksin, Dr. Surakiart initiated the Asia Cooperation Dialogue, (ACD), the first ever framework organization for all nations across the continent, including China, India, the Middle East and even Russia. After announcing plans to found ACD in 2001, Dr. Surakiart traveled the continent building support for the idea, a task requiring him to manage relationships among leaders of nations with widely divergent religions, languages, ethnicities, and development goals. Since its establishment, ACD nations have begun countless projects around energy security, agriculture, biotechnology, tourism, poverty alleviation, IT development, and financial cooperation. The same skills that fostered this new diplomacy also made Surakiart instrumental in brokering the East-West Economic Corridor, a major road connecting Southeast Asian nations from Vietnam to Myanmar, and linking with roads to India. Furthermore,

recognizing that a coordinated regional response to drug trafficking was necessary, Surakiart brought India and China together with Cambodia, Thailand and Myanmar to form an Anti-Drug Cooperation network.

As Foreign Minister, Dr. Surakiart has served his nation in broader multilateral organizations. For example, as the Vice-President of the Eleventh Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XI) in 2004, he worked to strengthen South-South cooperation at the multilateral level and promoted partnership and self-help as crucial to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. He has also been a strong supporter of the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC).

▶ Health and Welfare

As Foreign Minister Dr. Surakiart focused on a variety of international health and welfare issues. For example, his close contacts with Chinese officials enabled Dr. Surakiart to respond rapidly to SARS, setting up a high-level meeting between ASEAN leaders and China within days after news of the crisis broke. Of crucial importance, Dr. Surakiart was instrumental in convincing Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to attend, in what became his first trip abroad as Prime Minister, thus defusing potential tensions between China and ASEAN nations over the epidemic, and permitting construction of cooperative networks that helped head off a potential global health crisis.

Dr. Surakiart also substantially increased the resources available for de-mining operations while serving as President of the Fifth Meeting of the States Parties to the Ottawa Convention to eliminate anti-personnel landmines in 2003. Realizing that the World Bank classified de-mining as a security issue and therefore refused to fund it, Dr. Surakiart worked with then-President James Wolfensohn to re-classify de-mining as a development issue, enabling affected nations to obtain Bank funding for de-mining for the first time.

Realizing that Thailand had developed a largely effective response to the HIV/AIDS crisis, Dr. Surakiart instructed the Thailand International Cooperation Agency to develop HIV training programs for other nations seeking assistance addressing the crisis. He co-chaired the second Asia-Pacific Ministerial Meeting on HIV/AIDS in Bangkok in 2004. That meeting, attended by representatives of thirty-six Asian and Pacific nations, resulted in unprecedented commitments to strengthen inter-regional cooperation to combat HIV/AIDS, including intensive information-sharing on national programs and policies as well as regional initiatives to address trans-boundary priorities.

Dr. Surakiart's term as Foreign Minister was marked by the December 2004 Tsunami disaster, in Thailand and throughout the region. Within hours of the Tsunami, Dr. Surakiart arranged to fly staff from nearly thirty embassies to Phuket to inspect the damage and set up facilities for those of their citizens who were affected. At the Prime Minister's request, Dr. Surakiart coordinated the domestic relief effort, while facilitating the U.S. led efforts to establish a regional relief center in Thailand. After immediate relief needs were taken care of, Dr. Surakiart coordinated with Secretary General Annan and various ASEAN nations to set up the infrastructure for immediate coordination among impacted nations in case of future such crises and proposed standby arrangements for disaster relief.

Within one month after the tsunami, he facilitated a ministerial meeting among thirty nations to begin setting up an early-warning system for future tsunamis.

▶ Peace and Collective Security

Dr. Surakiart also played a key role in peace-building efforts in Asia. By building trust with his immediate neighbors, he was able to settle long-simmering border disputes between Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos. Approached by Norway and all factions in Sri Lanka and trusted as a fellow Buddhist by the Sri Lankan leadership, he offered Thailand as a venue for the Sri Lankan peace talks, which were led by Norway. Later, he organized a series of meetings in Bangkok designed to create dialogue between Myanmar and the international community and promote democracy in Myanmar, an initiative that led to the "Bangkok Process" for reform in Myanmar.

Following the Bali bombings and the attempted downing of an airliner in Kenya, Dr. Surakiart led the initiative under which APEC decided to ban shoulder-launched surface-to-air missiles ("MANPADs"). Key to this effort was Dr. Surakiart's decision to frame the issue as a threat to civil aviation and thus to tourism and economic development. Before the introduction of the six-party North Korea talks, moreover, Dr. Surakiart sought to prevent North Korean isolation and keep the channels of communication open by working with ASEAN through his initiative of "friends of the Chair of ARF" to urge and convince North Korea to attend the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), which is the security forum for ASEAN and allies, though he stepped aside this effort when the six-party talks began.

▶ Deputy Prime Minister

As Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Surakiart now oversees foreign affairs, education, and culture, after having overseen labour and human resources, social development and human security, giving him overarching responsibility over policy related to poverty alleviation and development. While continuing his work building regional partnerships, he has also set himself to the task of better protecting the rights of women and addressing the needs of the vulnerable, including a regularization program for foreign labour within Thailand which has resulted in registration of over a million immigrants from Myanmar, who can now obtain health, educational and other services. He's also helped draft a bill to suppress and prevent human trafficking especially to assist victims of trafficking which he moved through the Thai Cabinet, and which is now in Parliament.

▶ Personal

Dr. Surakiart is fluent in Thai and English, and proficient in French. He is married to Thanpuying* Dr. Suthawan Sathirathai, who holds a doctorate in economics from the University of Cambridge (UK), a graduate degree in economics from Tufts University (USA), and an engineering degree from Chulalongkorn University. They have one son, Mr. Santitarn Sathirathai, born in Boston, a Bachelor and Masters graduate of the London School of Economics who recently left the Thai Ministry of Finance to continue his postgraduate studies at The John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. Dr. Surakiart's favorite sports are badminton, bicycling and swimming.

* *Thanpuying is Thailand's highest ranking title for ladies graciously and rarely granted by His Majesty the King, comparable to "Grand Dame".*

Curriculum Vitae
Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai

Present Positions

- Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand (overseeing foreign affairs, education, and culture)
- Acting Minister of Culture
- Chairman, Cabinet Scrutiny Committee on Foreign Affairs, Education, and Culture
- Chairman, Strategy Planning of the National Administrative Plan 2005-2009: Foreign and International Economics
- Supervise, The National Research Council of Thailand
- Supervise, The Royal Institute
- Supervise, The Thailand Research Fund
- Supervise, The Office of National Education Standards and Quality Assessment
- Chairman, National Research Council
- Chairman, National Scout Organization
- Chairman, National Commission on Political Development
- Deputy Leader, Thai Rak Thai Party

Cabinet Positions Held

- Minister of Foreign Affairs (Feb 2001 - March 2005)
- Minister of Finance (1995 - 1996)

Special Assignments

- Representative of His Majesty the King at the Mourning Ceremony of His Highness The Amir of the State of Kuwait, January 2006
- Representative of His Majesty the King at the Funeral of His Holiness Pope John Paul II, April 2005

Marital Status

Married to Thanpuying Dr. Suthawan Sathirathai
One son Mr. Santitarn Sathirathai

Royal Decorations

- Knight Grand Cordon (Special Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant
- Knight Grand Cordon (Special Class) of the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand
- Grand Companion (Third Class, higher grade) of the Most Illustrious Order of the Chula Chom Klao
- Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Admirable Order of the Direkgunabhorn
- The Red Cross Awards Medal (First Class)

Foreign Decorations

- The Royal Order of Sahametrei - Grand Officer (Cambodia) 2002
- The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei (class S.P.M.B.) (Brunei Darussalam) 2002
- Commander Grand Cross (Sweden) 2003
- Grand Cross of the Order of Orange-Nassau (Netherlands) 2004
- Bahrain Decoration First Class (Bahrain) 2004
- The Congressional Medal of Achievement, (Philippines) 2006

Education

- S.J.D. Harvard Law School, U.S.A.
- LL.M. Harvard Law School, U.S.A.
- M.A.L.D. The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, U.S.A.
- LL.B (Honours) (Gold Medal Award) Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

Honorary Degree and Awards

- Hon. Doctorate Degree in Public Administration Eastern Asia University, Bangkok, 2006
- Outstanding Alumni of the Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, in 1996 and 2003.

Multilateral Conference

- Vice President, Centrist Democrats International (CDI) Asia Pacific, 2006
- Chair, Ministerial Meeting on Regional Cooperation on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements, Phuket, Thailand, 2005
- Chair, ACMECS (Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy) Foreign Ministers' Retreat, 2004
- Co-Chair, ASEAN-SAARC Foreign Ministers' Informal Meeting, 2004
- Co-Chair, Second Asia-Pacific Ministerial Meeting (APMM) on HIV/AIDS, 2004
- Co-Chair, ASEAN-US Ministerial Conference, 2004
- Vice-President of the Eleventh Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD X1), 2004
- Chair, Sixth Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMST-EC) Ministerial Meeting, 2004
- Chair, Ministerial Meeting on the Current Poultry Disease Situation, 2004
- Chair, Forum for International Support for National Reconciliation in Myanmar (Bangkok Process), 2003
- Chair, Fifteenth Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministerial Meeting, 2003
- President of the Fifth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, as of September 2003
- Chair, First Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy (ECS) between Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Thailand, 2003
- Chair, Five-Nation Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crimes, 2003
- Chair, Second Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Ministerial Meeting, 2003
- Chair, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Health Ministers' Meeting on Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), 2003
- Chair, Boao Forum for Asia Tourism Conference, 2002
- Vice-Chair, Second International Conference on Asian Political Parties (ICAPP), 2002
- Chair, WSSD side event on " Capacity Building in Trade and Sustainable Development", hosted by UNCTAD and UNEP, 2002
- Chair, Inaugural Meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Ministerial Meeting, 2002
- President of the Mid-term Review Conference of UNCTAD Ten, April 2002

- Host, ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat, 2002
- Chair, First Quadrilateral Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crimes, 2001
- Chair, Third Ministerial Meeting on the ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC), 2001
- Co-Chair, First Quadripartite Ministerial Meeting (East-West Economic Corridor), 2001
- Co-Chair, ASEAN-Russia Ministerial Conference, 2001 - 2003

Political Experience

- Vice Chairman of the Prime Minister's Advisory Council on Economic and Foreign Affairs (Chaired by the late General Chatichai Choonhavan, former Prime Minister)
- Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister on Economic Affairs
- Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister
- Adviser to the National Assembly

Academic Experience

- President, Institute of Social and Economic Policy (ISEP)
- Dean and Associate Professor of Law, Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University
- Vice Dean for Foreign Relations, Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University
- Co-teaching a graduate course with Professor Frederick E. Snyder at Harvard Law School
- Establishing undergraduate and graduate courses on International Economic Law at the Faculty of Law
- English and Thai publications in the area of international economic law in various journals i.e. World Bank Economic Review, Harvard Journal of International Law etc.

Experience with Government Committees and Boards

- Chairman of the Executive Board of the Petroleum Authority of Thailand (PTT)
- Chairman of the Board, PTT Exploration and Production Pcl. (PTTEP)
- Councillor of State, Office of the Council of State - Chairman of the Crown Property Bureau
- Chairman of the Crown Property Bureau
- Chairman of the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC)

- Chairman of the House Selected Committee on Budget Scrutiny 1996, House of Representatives
- Chairman, Committee to Amend Revolutionary Decree on Economic Matters (e.g. Alien Business Law)
- Member, Public/Private Sector Joint Consultative Committee to Resolve Economic Problems, Prime Minister's Office
- Member, Board of Investment (B0I)

Business Experience

- Chairman of the Board, Siam Premier International Law Office Ltd.
- Chairman of the Representative of Planner and Plan Administrator of Thai Oil Co., Ltd.
- Chairman of the Executive Board, Thai Oil Co., Ltd. - Member of the Board, Thai Oil Power Co., Ltd.
- Chairman of the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC)
- Chairman of the Board and Chairman of the Executive Board of Laem Thong Bank Public Company Limited

Charity Work

- Chairman of Foundation for the Institute of Social and Economic Policy
- Secretary General, Foundation for the Memorial of King Rama V at Chula Chom Klao Fort
- Honorary Adviser, Eastern Asia University's Council.

United Nations S/2006/493

Security Council

Distr.: General
7 July 2006

Original: English

Letter dated 6 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach herewith the answer of the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on 6 July 2006, to a question raised by the Korean Central News Agency with regard to the recent missile launches in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Pak** Gil Yon
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

06-42126 (E) 070706

Annex to the letter dated 6 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Answer of the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to a question raised by the Korean Central News Agency with regard to the missile launches

In the wake of the missile launches by the Korean People's Army (KPA), the United States of America and some other countries following it, including Japan, are making much ado about a serious development. They are terming them a "violation" and a "provocation" and calling for "sanctions" and "their referral to the United Nations Security Council".

The latest successful missile launches were part of the routine military exercises staged by the KPA to increase the nation's military capacity for self-defence.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea's exercise of its legitimate right as a sovereign State is bound neither to any international law nor to bilateral or multilateral agreements such as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea-Japan Pyongyang Declaration and the joint statement of the six-party talks.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is not a signatory to the missile technology control regime and, therefore, is not bound to any commitment under it.

As for the moratorium on long-range missile test-firing, which the Democratic People's Republic of Korea agreed with the United States in 1999, it was valid only when the Democratic People's Republic of Korea-United States dialogue was under way.

The Bush administration, however, scrapped all the agreements its preceding administration concluded with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and totally scuttled the bilateral dialogue.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea had already clarified in March 2005 that its moratorium on missile test-firing had lost its validity.

The same can be said of the moratorium on the test-firing of long-range missiles, which the Democratic People's Republic of Korea agreed with Japan in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea-Japan Pyongyang Declaration in 2002.

In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea-Japan Pyongyang Declaration, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea expressed its intention to extend beyond 2003 the moratorium on the missile firing in the spirit of the Declaration.

That step was taken on the premise that Japan moved to normalize its relations with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and redeem its past.

The Japanese authorities, however, have abused the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's good faith. They have not honoured their commitment but internationalized the "abduction issue", pursuant to the United States hostile policy towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, although the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had fully settled the issue. That behaviour has brought

overall Democratic People's Republic of Korea-Japan relations to where they were before the publication of the Declaration.

It is a manifestation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's broad magnanimity that it has put on hold the missile launch so far under this situation.

The joint statement of the six-party talks on 19 September 2005 stipulates the commitments to be fulfilled by the six sides to the talks to denuclearize the Korean peninsula.

However, no sooner had the joint statement been adopted than the United States applied financial sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and, through them, escalated pressure on it in various fields. The United States, at the same time, has totally hamstrung the efforts for the implementation of the joint statement through such threats and blackmail as large-scale military exercises targeted against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

It is clear to everyone that there is no need for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to unilaterally put on hold the missile launch under such situation.

In the face of such a stark fact, it is a far-fetched assertion grossly falsifying reality for them to claim that the routine missile launches conducted by the Korean People's Army for self-defence strain the regional situation and block the progress of the dialogue.

It is a lesson taught by history, and a stark reality of international relations proven by the Iraqi crisis, that the upsetting of the balance of power is bound to create instability and crisis and spark even a war.

Except for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's tremendous deterrent for self-defence, the United States would have attacked the Democratic People's Republic of Korea more than once as it had listed the former as part of an "axis of evil" and a "target of pre-emptive nuclear attack", and peace on the Korean peninsula and in the region would have been seriously disturbed.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea's missile development, test-firing, manufacture and deployment, therefore, serve as a key to keeping the balance of power and to preserving peace and stability in North-East Asia.

It is also preposterous for them to term the latest missile launches a "provocation" and the like for the mere reason that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea did not send prior notice about them.

It would be quite foolish to notify Washington and Tokyo of the missile launches in advance, given that the United States, which is technically at war with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, has been threatening since a month ago to intercept the latter's missiles in collusion with Japan.

We would like to ask the United States and Japan if they have ever notified the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of their ceaseless missile launches in the areas close to it.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea remains unchanged in its will to denuclearize the Korean peninsula in a negotiated peaceful manner just as it committed itself in the 19 September joint statement of the six-party talks.

The latest missile launch exercises are quite irrelevant to the six-party talks.

The Korean People's Army will go on with missile launch exercises as part of its efforts to bolster deterrence for self-defence in the future, too.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea will have no option but to take stronger physical actions of other forms, should any other country dare to take issue with the exercises and put pressure upon it.

United Nations S/2006/494

Security Council

Distr.: General
6 July 2006
English
Original: French

Letter dated 6 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that, under the French presidency of the Security Council, a ministerial debate on children and armed conflict will be organized in the Council on Monday, 24 July.

France has prepared the concept paper annexed hereto in order to guide the discussion on that occasion (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jean-Marc **de La Sablière**

06-42211 (E) 100706 100706

Annex to the letter dated 6 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Ministerial meeting of the Security Council on children and armed conflict

24 July 2006

Concept paper

Since the last debate in the Security Council on children and armed conflict in February 2005, there have been important developments: the adoption of Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), the establishment by the Secretary-General of a monitoring and reporting mechanism, the appointment of Ms. Coomaraswamy to the position of Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, and the start of activities by the Security Council Working Group established under resolution 1612. A report prepared by the Chairman of the Security Council Working Group detailing the Group's work since its start will be published before 24 July 2006.

These have been substantial gains. However, they need to be publicized more and to have maximum support from Security Council member States, the United Nations system, regional organizations, the States and other parties concerned, as well as actors in the field, particularly non-governmental organizations. Only if everyone mobilizes and cooperates will we be able to transform these efforts into success. The purpose of the ministerial debate on 24 July therefore is to give political impetus to the dynamic initiated by the Security Council.

The meeting will be presided over by French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy. It will be attended by the Secretary-General. The Council will hear statements by Ms. Coomaraswamy (the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict) and Ms. Veneman (UNICEF Executive Director). Following statements by members of the Security Council, States concerned with the problem will be invited to speak, as will representatives of regional organizations, main actors in development and, lastly, a representative of civil society. Statements will be limited to five minutes. The debate will conclude with the adoption of a presidential statement.

During the debate, speakers should address the following:

- assessment of the ground covered since the adoption of Security Council resolution 1612 and prospects for the future;
- how to support the implementation of the monitoring and reporting mechanism provided for in Security Council resolution 1612, in particular providing political support and the necessary resources;
- how States and other parties concerned can assist the action of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in discharging her mandate;
- evaluation of the action by the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict and how to orient its work;

- how to ensure that the issue of development, especially in the health and education sectors, is articulated in Security Council action so that demobilized children are offered the prospect of lasting reintegration;

- how to obtain the optimal involvement of regional organizations and civil society actors in the strategy of the Security Council, in the new context created by Security Council resolution 1612.